



Hector De La Torre

News Release

Assembly Member 50th District

For Immediate Release

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De La Torre Urges for Equality in Maternity Coverage in all Health Plans

Assembly Bill 1962 Targets Health Insurance Policies that Leave Women and Infants Vulnerable

(Sacramento, CA) – Assemblymember Hector De La Torre (D-South Gate) urges the Assembly Health committee members to pass legislation to close a loophole exploited by health insurance companies that sell cheap, non-comprehensive coverage. These "subprime" insurance products usually lack coverage for maternity services. Assembly Bill 1962 would require all health insurance products regulated under the Department of Insurance to cover maternity services.

WHO:

Assemblymember Hector De La Torre
Senator Gloria Negrete-McLeod (invited)
Kaiser Permanente
California Medical Association
March of Dimes
Planned Parenthood
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - District IX
Latino Issues Forum
Dozen of Doctors and other healthcare advocates

WHAT:

Hold press conference to urge the Assembly Health Committee members to pass Assembly Bill 1962 to help protect the interest of women and their families. AB 1962 would close these loopholes that allow some health insurance products in the individual market to exclude maternity coverage. The bill will be heard in the Assembly Health Committee on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at approximately 1:30 p.m. in room 4202.

WHEN:

Tuesday, April 15, 2008
At 11 a.m.

WHERE:

California State Capitol
Room 317

WHY:

Under California law, health plans are regulated by two state agencies under different regulations. Health plans (such as HMO's) are already required to include maternity services in any health insurance policy they offer. Health insurers (such as PPO's) are not.

Federal law requires employers to include maternity services when they purchase health insurance; to not do so constitutes employment discrimination against women. Policies sold to individuals in California are not subject to this requirement. As more employers are dropping health insurance for their employees, insurance companies are increasingly targeting this young, uninsured segment of the market with these non-maternity products.

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